MORE LIGHT ON EVEREST DISASTER.

Mr Odell's Last View of Lost Climbers.

BELIEVES SUMMIT WAS REACHED.

Mr Odell, in the latest dispatch from the Everest Expedition, tells more and all that is ever likely to be known of the last hours of Messrs Mallory and Irvine, who never returned from their attempt to reach the summit.

All that is certain is that they achieved a world's altitude record. Mr Odell believes, however, that the summit was actually reached.

LAST DAYS AT RONGBUK.

BUILDING MONUMENT TO LOST COMRADES.

(From Lieut.-Colonel E. F. Norton.)

(By Arrangement with the "Times.")

Rongbuk Base Camp, June 14.

The expedition leaves the Base Camp to-morrow bound on a relatively brief period of exploration in Rongmar Valley under Gurmisenar, before starting on our homeward march. The Kellas porters, who have played so many tricky tricks this year, continues to be brilliantly fine, and there are indications that the monsoon has ceased for the moment. But there is no question of a resumption of hostilities on the mountain. Every one of the surviving climbers has shot his bolt, and I have before me a medical report showing that each of us has a more or less dilated heart, besides various minor disabilities. The trouble will right itself at the lower altitudes to which we are bound, but could probably be permanent if further high climbing were attempted. This the medico (Major Longstaff) definitely forbids.

There is yet another casualty to report. Manchadar, a Nepalese, the assistant bootmaker, who was very badly frostbitten in the feet in an avalanche on the night of May 31, died of pneumonia at the Base Camp under Major Hingston on May 25. Perhaps it was merciful, as he would have lost both feet had he lived.

Heavy Hearts.

We leave here with heavy hearts. We failed to reach success, for who will ever know whether the lost climbers reached the summit before the accident which, in fact, may be assumed, caused their death. The last point at which they were seen was determined by the theodolite as 28,227 feet—less than 800 feet from the top. Together with the height reached by Mr Somervell and myself, which, measured by the theodolite, was 28,128 feet, these constitute a world's "record" for climbing, with and without oxygen respectively.

But the price is out of all proportion to the results. Much will be written by those at home of both Mallory and Irvine in regard to the various departments in which they distinguished themselves. I shall only say a few words on how we knew them here.

Mallory.

Mallory was for three years the living soul of the offensive on Everest. I believe the thing was a personal matter with him, and was ultimately responsible for every move which it was to the rest of us. The story of his determined and ultimately successful struggle to get a camp on the North Col (23,000 feet). The duty of being in support at the highest camp to each assaulting party fell largely on him, and his function kept us fully occupied, particularly as all the water had to be obtained by melting snow which, at this altitude was of an exceedingly dry and powdered variety.

Setting Out.

On June 6, following an early breakfast of porridge, we joyfully abandoned and moderately partaken of, Mallory and Irvine left the North Col Camp for their grand attempt, accompanied by five porters with provisions and reserve oxygen cylinders. Using oxygen, they had already ascended from Camp III., 2,000 feet higher, in 24 hours. They were highly pleased with their performance, which seemed to augur well for the final assault on the summit. The next day they ascended to Camp VI. (27,600 feet), which had been established on a small snow platform on a ridge of chalk three days previously. The same day I ascended to the supporting camp, Camp V., at 25,500 feet, on the north ridge, having now and then to take shelter behind rocks from the violent and bitterly cold west wind, which, funnelled down the north ridge, threatened to blow us off the mountain. I reached the North Col camp with its profound comforts and hot soup.

The next day we evacuated the camp, and the climbers in succession down to the East Rongbuk Glacier.

The Problem.

Has Everest been climbed? Col. Norton has referred to this question. It will ever be a mystery, but, in view of all the circumstances and the position they had reached in the mountain, I personally am of opinion that Mallory and Irvine must have reached the summit.

[The "Times" World Copyright by arrangement with the Mount Everest Committee.]

BRITISH RUM-RUNNERS SENTENCED.

Galveston, Friday.

Three Americans and three British subjects, who were involved in the case of the rum-runner Island Home, which for days has been seized by the Prohibition authorities for carrying spirituous liquors, have received terms of imprisonment ranging from 6 to 18 months, and fines from 250 to 5000 dols. The Department of Justice officials are of opinion that the convictions in this case will assist their campaign against liquor-smuggling by sea.—Reuter.

INDIA AND LEAGUE.

The representatives of India at the September session of the Assembly of the League of Nations will be:—

Lord Ronaldshay.

Major-General his Highness the Maharaja of Bikaner.

Sir Muhammad Rafique.

OMNIBUS FATALITY.

In trying to avoid a collision with a motor car yesterday, a Cardiff Corporation omnibus mounted the pavement near the corner's jury found Albert Sterling, wife, crushed a man and woman. The former was so terribly injured that he died subsequently in hospital. He has not yet been identified.

SUICIDE.

Sitting at a farmhouse at Besthorpe, near Attleborough, Norfolk, yesterday, a farmer's wife, aged 40, committed suicide, while temporarily insane, murdered his wife and committed suicide.

did likewise. Then the whole fascinating vision vanished, enveloped in rock and mist once more.

There was but one explanation. It was Mallory and his companion, moving, as I could see even at that great distance, with considerable alacrity, realising doubtless that they had only two more hours of daylight to reach the summit from their present position and return to camp with the nightfall. The place on the ridge mentioned is a prominent rock step, at a very short distance from the base of the final pyramid, and it was remarkable that they were so late in reaching this place.

Bad Conditions.

According to Mallory's schedule they should have reached it several hours earlier if they had started from the high camp as anticipated. That they had encountered bad conditions and also severe rocks and other obstacles was likely. However, in my opinion, from the position in which they were last seen, they should have reached the summit at 4 p.m. at latest, unless some unforeseen and particularly difficult obstacle presented itself on the final pyramid. This seemed to be very unlikely, for we had practically had the last slopes with telescopes and binoculars, and had seen that, technically, the climbing was easy.

The Likely Explanation.

Perhaps the most likely explanations of their failure to return were a fall, or inability to reach the camp before darkness set in. I rather incline to the latter view, and consider it very probable that they had reached the summit and had sat down to rest, and a painless death followed, due to the excessive cold at those altitudes.

THE SEARCH.

MR ODELL BELIEVES THE SUMMIT WAS REACHED.

After the brief glimpse of the party above described, I continued up to Camp VI. which was reached just as a rather severe blizzard started. The camp consisted of one small mountain tent pitched on a ledge, backed by a step of rocks, by no means conspicuous or easy to find. I brought up with me provisions for the camp, and after placing them in the tent and sheltering for a while, I decided to go out in the direction of the peak along the mountain side, in case the lad weather should compel the party to turn back.

I whistled and yodelled through the driving sleet to give the returning party the right direction, but soon realised that, in the existing state of the weather, such calls they would still be beyond hearing, even if they were returning. Perhaps they were right above me and I passed in a mist.

Within two hours the storm had blown over, and the whole north face was bathed in sunshine. I searched the upper crag for another glimpse of the party, but nothing could be seen.

In accordance with earlier arrangements, suggested by Mallory himself, I returned to the North Col, and with Hazard kept watch till late in the night for the return of the party. As they had not returned on the morrow, it was assumed that perhaps they were still sleeping at Camp VI., having reached it at a late hour the night before, but we were unable with field glasses to detect any movement around the distant tent.

At noon I decided to ascend to Camp V., stay the night, and proceed to Camp VI. the next day to ascertain if they had returned, and whether help was needed in consequence of some mishap. I arranged a code of signals with Hazard, by means of sleeping bags placed conspicuously on the snow, in case assistance, medical or otherwise, should be required. Two porters and myself left the camp in the afternoon only to find ourselves caught in a heavy snow storm, which, at this altitude was of an exceedingly dry and powdered variety.

Camp V.

After a very cold night, I pushed on to Camp VI., this time carrying with me an oxygen apparatus, and also provisions for the missing party, as I reached the tented of the camp in the afternoon only to find conditions of deep snow which, as the days previously, and as Mallory and Irvine had left it on the morning of their climb. Leaving the tent, I climbed with difficulty, and worked out, using the face in the direction of their route, searching for some clue.

But I could see no trace on such a vast mountain face! Weeks of diligent search by a party fully equipped for such difficult and hampering work would in fact altitude might not produce any result nor unravel a mystery.

At length, as the day was drawing to a close, I reluctantly gave up the search, and signalled down to Hazard at the North Col, over 5000 feet below, that I was coming down. I reached the tent, and leaving the with the last relic of our lost companions, a rock, I began to climb down the north ridge, having now and then to take shelter behind rocks from the violent and bitterly cold west wind, which, funnelled down the north ridge, threatened to blow us off the mountain. I reached the North Col camp with its profound comforts and hot soup.

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FRANCE ANGRY ONCE AGAIN.

Britain the Offender.

SUGGESTIONS FOR ALLIED CONFERENCE.

French opinion has again moved against Britain. The agitation is due to certain suggestions which accompanied the invitation to the forthcoming Allied Conference in London.

One suggestion is that certain German defaults should be dealt with other than by the Reparations Commission. France alleged that this is a move to destroy the Versailles Treaty.

British circles are surprised at the French outburst. The suggestions, it is pointed out, are merely suggestions, and bind nobody.

An announcement in the "Echo de Paris" regarding the Allied Conference of July 16 has set French opinion in a flutter. That newspaper has stated that among the points to be submitted to the conference is the creation of a new body which is to consider, apart from the Reparation Commission, defaults of which Germany may be guilty in regard to obligation lying outside the Treaty of Versailles.

In the dispatch in the "Echo de Paris" the London correspondent of that journal states that the London Conference will be invited to adopt a Protocol containing the following points:—

1. The signatory Powers adhere to the experts' report.

2. The Germans will have to take all steps necessary to give effect to the experts' plan before a date to be fixed by the conference.

3. The Allies will have to suppress all the economic and financial sanctions at present applied to Germany, such sanctions to be withdrawn two or three weeks subsequent to the 1st, and also to be fixed by the conference.

4. The Allies will undertake to enforce no sanctions unless Germany seriously defaults in her engagements. All such defaults are in future so examined by a new organisation which will be created apart from the Reparations Commission, in view of the fact that the new obligations to be undertaken by Germany are not provided for in the Treaty of Versailles.

All disputes to which the interpretation of this Protocol may give rise shall be settled by the International Court at the Hague.

Inter-Allied debts and the question of security shall be excluded from discussion.

M. HERRIOT'S NOTE.

BRITISH SUGGESTIONS NOT TO BE BINDING.

Paris, Friday.

M. Herriot has sent a Note to Great Britain, stating that the French Government does not consider itself bound by the British suggestions accompanying the invitations to the forthcoming conference in London.—Reuter.

SITUATION CLOUDED.

OPPOSITION IN WAIT FOR M. HERRIOT.

The report of the Comte de Saint Aulaire, the French Ambassador in London, of his talks with Mr Ramsay MacDonald and Sir Eyre Crowe regarding the misunderstanding over the terms of the invitation to the July Conference is anxiously awaited in Paris.

The Quai d'Orsay expresses the hope that the British Government will not be influenced, ing from the British side, but it is realised that the difficulty in reaching agreement at the London Conference will be considerably greater than was expected on the morrow of the Chequers conversations.

The situation is most embarrassing for M. Herriot, who has to face the force of the Opposition, questions in debate on foreign policy are fixed for July 9 and 10, and he is asked to explain the contradiction between the complete agreement of Chequers and the present situation. Such explanation appears to be essential a matter as the right of the Reparations Commission to decide regarding German defaults in execution of the Dawes Plan.—Reuter.

STORM OF PROTEST.

FRENCH PRESS TURNS ON MR MACDONALD.

Paris, Friday.

The suggestions accompanying the British invitation to the Inter-Allied Conference have evoked a storm of protest in the French Press.

The lull which has prevailed without interruption since Mr Ramsay MacDonald and Mr Snowden left the Chequers week-end was broken this morning. Thus the "Journal des Débats" declares that the news from London is bad, and continues to indicate that the British Foreign Office is yielding to the temptation to transform the London Conference into a meeting for the revision of the Treaty of Versailles.

On the other hand, the "Temps," in the course of a leading article, says: "Appearances these polemics as detrimental to public confidence, which is so essential to the success of the conference." It adds that Great Britain is justified in making any suggestions she likes, but she is not justified in giving the impression that France has agreed to them.

Finally, the newspaper urges that the Conference shall be confined to the whole Experts' Report, and nothing but the Report.

BRITISH SURPRISE.

FRENCH AGITATION NOT UNDERSTOOD.

Reuter understands that great surprise is felt in British political circles at the attitude of the French press regarding the Chequers conversations, and that there is difficulty in comprehending the excitement evinced.

The British Government has done nothing contrary to any understanding existing with the French Government in coming to be communicated to other Allies on account of what happened at Chequers.

Nothing was decided at Chequers, and it was understood throughout that nothing binding would be decided without reference to the other Powers, and, therefore, no questions of what was decided arise.

There never has been any intention of making it appear as if there had been definite and binding decisions at Chequers. Moreover, there is no intention of interfering with the work of the Reparations Commission, and it is nonsense to suggest that British wants to scrap the Commission.

The British idea is to point out that there are things the Reparations Commission cannot do. Britain is merely suggesting what is her own view.

RECOVERY OF WORLD.

Mr Sidney Webb's Optimism.

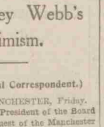
(From a Special Correspondent.)

MANCHESTER, Friday.

Mr Sidney Webb, President of the Board of Trade, was the guest of the Manchester Chamber of Commerce at luncheon to-day. He summed up his remarks on trade outlook in one phrase.

"The recovery of the world," he said, "is going on in a very promising way."

The dislocation of economic relations and the disorganisation of the world's commercial machinery through which the world's work was done was the most disastrous of all the effects of the war, but that dislocation was being silently and continuously repaired all over the world. He could test describe the state of trade as one of active expectancy. There were signs here and there, quite cautious signs, of a genuine revival of confidence and prosperity. He was not going to attempt to prophesy when that revival would begin, but he would suggest that those signs of uplift in business were real. They might take them as indicative of gradual improvement, and, looking a bit distant date, was going to lead all over the world to a real recovery of prosperity and prosperity.



Mr Sidney Webb.

Peace and the Weather.

Peace depended upon two things. It depended firstly upon the continuance and growth of the peace feeling among all the peoples of the world—(hear, hear)—and it depended, secondly, more than was usually the case, on the weather. He thought they might safely without any party difference that there had been very marked improvement during the last few months in the growth of that peace feeling throughout the world. It might also be admitted, without party feeling, that the present Prime Minister had done a good deal to promote that feeling. Whether the Prime Minister would succeed in bringing about a really effective settlement of the difficulties which still existed among the different nations of Europe it would be presumptuous of anybody to say. The difficulties were very real and grave, and whether he succeeded or not in that achievement, what had been done remained.

With regard to the weather factor, a great deal depended on the weather in the United States upon whether the cotton crop of the United States was going to be a bumper harvest or the reverse. He hoped no one would denounce the Labour Party for not having reduced the price of raw cotton. (Laughter.) All the same he was presumptuous to suggest that the nations of the world ought not to sit down supinely under all weather. The weather was seldom uniform throughout the globe, and we ought to make ourselves relatively independent of bad weather in any particular country. He was sorry he could not say the world had made itself independent of American cotton or the possible failure of the American cotton crop, but he was glad to say that the Empire Cotton-Growing Association, in which the Board of Trade naturally took the greatest interest, was going on very well. He need not remind them of what was happening in India, in various parts of Africa, and in Australia with regard to cotton cultivation.

Sudan Developments.

"May I," remarked the speaker, "say, with regard to the Sudan, from which, from a cotton point of view, we have considerable hopes, the declarations of the present Government make it quite certain that what happens in the Sudan will be by no means a matter of indifference to the Government. (Hear, hear.) You may feel confident that this Government, like any British Government, will take care that progress made in the Sudan will not be allowed to be prejudiced by any change that may be demanded in any other part."

In conclusion, Mr Sidney Webb said that what the world needed in every sense was more and more peace. Our problems were constantly in complexity and immensity, and they could not be dealt with successfully on the old lines. We must create more social tissue in the world.

TUBERCULOSIS.

MR WHEATLEY AND HOMES FOR PATIENTS.

Speaking at a tuberculosis conference at Wembley yesterday Mr Wheatley, Minister of Health, said until they got a decent standard of housing they could not get rid of tuberculosis. He wondered whether a scheme could be evolved whereby tuberculular patients would go to workshops, do their ordinary work and return at night to comfortable suitable houses.

Dr F. S. Kay Menzies, dealing with the part played by training colonies in the treatment of tuberculosis, said in judging the provision for adequate colonies the industrial principles should be kept in view.

During the recent years, it has been demonstrated that tuberculous infection is, in the majority of instances, contracted in early childhood, and that manifestations occurring later in life—at whatever date and however varying in degree—are, as a rule, resultants of an earlier infection. Although infection is thus widespread and generally contracted in childhood, only a small fraction of those who contract infection suffer seriously therefrom.

In approaching the problem of treatment, attention must be directed to the differences in the problem: (a) to the infection proper; and (b) to the degree of resistance which may be offered to the spread of infection either through inherent quality of tissue or through satisfactory or unsatisfactory or environmental conditions.

The aim of treatment should be to reduce, as far as possible, occasions of exposure to contagion and to augment the results of infection by all suitable means, direct and indirect.

Meanwhile, cases of more advanced disease, whether chronic or acute, will continue for some time to claim our attention, and hence, in the meantime, the need for hospitals and institutions for advanced cases, etc., as contrasted with the sanatorium proper will continue.

FAMOUS BURGOMASTER LEAVES FOR SCOTLAND.

Brussels, Friday.

M. Max, the Burgomaster, has left for Edinburgh, where he is to receive the freedom of the city and the degree of Doctor, Honoris Causa, of the University.—Reuter.

AFFORESTATION AND SMALLHOLDINGS.

Prime Minister's Idea.

PRACTICAL SCHEME ON THE WAY.

Mr Ramsay MacDonald, speaking in Wales yesterday, said Labour wanted to associate smallholdings with afforestation.

They wanted men to work in the forests, and to work in the land when not required in the forests.

In that way they would get the foundation of a British stock strong in body and in mind.

(From a Special Correspondent.)

ABERAVON, Friday.

The Prime Minister devoted the greater part of his time to-day to visiting the South Wales to visiting hospitals and convalescent homes, and took the opportunity to pay a fine tribute to the magnificent work of Britain's nurses and the voluntary effort of those who work in the cause of the hospitals throughout the country. Miss Isabel MacDonald again accompanied her father, and shared in the warm Welsh welcome extended to him.

Addressing the working inmates of the Talbot Institute Which is said to be a model Home at Langland Bay, the Prime Minister said he was glad that, by co-operative efforts, they were able to enjoy the amenities of a lordly mansion and its beautiful surroundings. That was a great change which he would like to see come over many other things. Sometimes people tried to squash Socialism by telling the story of a Rothschild who, when it was said a well and needy Socialist claimed a share in his fortune, handed him a shilling as the exact proportion due to him to one of the world's inhabitants.

Socialism's Aims.

"Many people actually imagine," he said, "that that is the Socialist reply to what some of us are trying to do, but our object is not to share out but to put together and share. It is the principle of co-operative contribution and enjoyment, if properly understood and courageously applied, would solve many of the most pressing of our social problems."

At the Bryn tennis courts Miss Macdonald delivered a brief speech, in which she said that while she saw before her the foundations of good tennis courts, she also saw sound in the people the foundations of comradeship, goodwill and peace. When such foundations were laid in all the villages of Great Britain they would feel that a great work had been accomplished.

Speaking at the Cwm Avon Football Club, the Prime Minister observed that the newspapers said the Government had been defeated a seventh time. Until they were defeated on something of real importance, however, the Government were going on. They would hide their time, because he felt the country was behind them. The seventh defeat was on a question of charity and entertainments tax. Labour was quite willing to exempt all charities and educational objects from that tax absolutely. The only trouble was that they could not very well balance the Budget without some revenue from it, the whole they thought it better to reduce the taxation on tea rather than take away from the entertainments tax. The Government also wanted to preserve themselves against fraud, for there were many things that were fraudulent which palmed themselves off as charity.

Afforestation.

The Prime Minister spoke of the lack of preparation for the Socialist State. He sympathised with the question of unemployment. Labour wanted to associate smallholdings with afforestation. They wanted men to work in the forests, and to work on the land when not required in the forests. They wanted to plant great areas not only with trees but with men—to plant them with families. In that way the nation would be laying the foundation of a stock strong in body and in mind.

"That," he said, "is what we are out for, and we can enter into office we had to start afresh, and our methods are now saying. 'What have you done during the years you have been in office?' Of course we are, and as the result of our considerations a practical scheme is now being worked out which will meet the needs of the country is now three months nearer realisation than when we came into office."

Election Rumours.

After referring to housing, Mr MacDonald said that in spite of everything the Government was going to show them good results. "I am not one of those who say an election is coming soon," he said. "I am not afraid of any confidence in the present Government. I do not believe that anybody wish to have an election at all. So far as I am concerned, I am not going artificially to create the condition which would enable me to go to the country with an excuse. I am out for business. I want to do something within the time we are in office to put the Labour cause in Europe, something that will enable us to make a real beginning in social reconstruction.

"I am not going to deceive you. If we start now, if we rush on without fully considering the matter, we shall probably not stand the test of experience. But with a good Government in office, with a good majority, we can go to grips with the civil Service, there is no reason why, after all, we should not be a good Government, we should not be able to begin and show results of a very practical and effective character.

"I know the Tories are Bolsheviists. They always were. (Laughter.) Labour's principles have left a deep impression, and Labour is trying to get rid of the mud."

Thousands of people gave the Prime Minister and his daughter a hearty send-off as they left by the 5.17 p.m. train for London.

RIFLE AND BAYONET.

STILL DECIDING FACTOR IN BATTLE.

At the Army Rifle Association meeting at Bisley yesterday the 2nd Royal Scots team won the Britannia trophy, a silver replica of the Nelson Column, given by the Royal Navy.

The Methuen Cup, open to teams of eight of the three services, was secured by H.M.S. Pembroke.

Presenting the prizes, General the Earl of Cavan described as ridiculous a suggestion that if everything were mechanicalised the number of men could be reduced 60 per cent. When they got to grips with the enemy musketry and the bayonet would win a battle. The problem of a satisfactory military self-loading rifle had not yet been solved, but investigations were still going on.

PRIVATE BILLS GALORE.

M.P.'s Poor Hope of Success.

(By Our Parliamentary Correspondent)

WESTMINSTER, Friday.

People who take but a passing interest in the work of our legislators may be surprised to hear that this session over a hundred Bills have been brought forward by private members, quite apart from the heavy programme of legislation for which the Government are responsible. Not more than four of these have the prospect of being passed into law. These include Mr F. C. Thomson's Conveyancing Bill.

The last opportunity in the Commons for the discussion of private members' Bills came to-day, and a Bill to extend the ground on which separation and maintenance orders could be granted received its third reading. It was one of the four Bills with a prospect to which I have referred.

This Bill (the Government have decided to adopt, and, as Col. Wedgwood on their behalf announced, it ought to have a fairly easy passage.

The feature of the Bill was to extend the privileges to women, so as to make them less economically dependent upon their husbands. In large part it was a lawyer's discussion as to the effect of the Bill and that arranged, but the women M.P.'s took a keen interest in it. So much so that Lady Astor, while disagreeing with the Bill, went into the Liberal lobbies to be near Mrs Wintringham, whom she was consulting, indulged in some interruption of a skilful character. Mrs Cassels, about the rights of women in general, and married women in particular. What stopped the sense of interjections was Mr Cassels's remark that Lady Astor had been shaking her fist at him.

"Why," she exclaimed in horror, "I hardly lifted a finger!"

Her anxiety was in case it might be reported in the newspapers that she had shaken her fist.

"I never knew," she appealed to the Speaker, "how bad that looks in print."

(Parliamentary Report on Page 8.)

UNIONISM'S CLEAR AIM.

MR BALDWIN ON LABOUR-LIBERAL ANOMALY.

Mr Baldwin has addressed the following letter to Captain P. M. H. Bennett, M.P., the Unionist candidate for the Lowes Division of Sussex:—

July 2, 1924.

Dear Captain Bennett,—My very best wishes for your success. You have two opponents. No elector of Lewes will be misled into thinking that they really represent conflicting political views. If either were returned, I cannot imagine anything more unlikely, the result would be the same. The Liberal would vote patiently and uncomplainingly for the Socialist Government which he now condemns. The Socialist would mingle on the friendliest terms in the Government division lobby with the Liberals, for whom he now has no good word.

The position of the Unionist Party in contrast is clear and well-defined. We do not encourage in Parliament the class war whom we fight in the country. In both places we expose the wretched failure of Socialism and its attempts to solve our enormous unemployment. In both places we denounce the Socialists who offer a friendly greeting to the Socialists and turn a deaf ear to our kith and kin in our Empire overseas. In both places we censure the Socialists who promised to restore peace by surrender and now leave the farmer to solve his problems by himself. In both places we condemn the Socialists who pledged themselves to give the agricultural worker a living wage, but now offer him the unsatisfying machinery of the Wages Board in place of the wage itself.

The country is realising that its hope for the future is with our party. We have consistently restated our principles and our aims in clear and precise language. We neither mislead nor disappoint. We have a record of fulfilment, nor hold out hopes of a future without the assistance of the self-denial of which we ourselves set the example. We defend the liberties and the freedom of the individual from the rigid regulation and State interference which are inseparable from the system of Socialism.

Again my best wishes for your success.

Yours faithfully,

STANLEY BALDWIN.

LOBBY NOTES.

(From our Political Correspondent.)

The Duchess of Atholl hopes that the Secretary for Scotland may state on Monday whether he intends to set up a Committee of inquiry into the extent of the evil of child assault in Scotland, with a view to suggesting how it may be remedied.

Mr Mackenzie Livingstone intends to ask the Scottish Secretary on Monday whether he proposes to confers and small holders at a reduced rate of interest, in view of the fact that Highland crofters are not provided for in Mr Wheatley's Housing Bill.

Fifty M.P.'s have subscribed their names to a motion asking for a statue to be placed in the Palace of Westminster, to commemorate the services of Sir John Eliot in the struggle for the liberties of Parliament. Among those are Mr Lang Sturrock and Mr. D. M. Cowan.

U.S. FLIERS AT KARACHI.

Karachi, Friday.

The American world fliers have arrived here.—Reuter.

KILLED BY LIGHTNING.

A terrible storm burst over Prestatyn district, Radnorshire, on Tuesday night. Lightning struck a farm stable and a waggoner and his horse were killed.

CABINET TO VISIT WEMBLEY.

Arrangements have been made for the entire Cabinet to visit the British Empire Exhibition on Friday afternoon, July 25.

DEARER LONDON BREAD.

The London Master Bakers' Protection Society announce that, owing to the continued rise in the cost of flour, it has been decided to increase the price of the quartern loaf from 8½d to 9d in London on Monday.

REMARKABLE STORY BY VAQUIER.

Strychnine Purchase.

ALLEGATION AGAINST MRS JONES'S SOLICITOR.

(From a Special Correspondent.)

GUILDFORD, Friday.

Something of a sensation was caused when the case for the defence was opened in the Bydfeet murder trial. Vaquier went into the witness-box, and in the course of a long examination declared that he had bought the strychnine for Mrs Jones's solicitor (whose name was given as Mr Bruce Millar).

The reason given by the latter for the purchase, said Vaquier, was that he wished to kill a dog.

Mr Bruce Millar will be called in the court to-morrow, when the trial is expected to conclude.

Vaquier was brought from Brixton Prison this morning. His first inquiry at the end of the proceedings yesterday evening was as to how Miss Langley was getting on.

Vaquier said he was 45 years of age, and that since he left school he had been engaged in motoring and electricity. He was formerly 2nd Lieut. in the Royal Engineers, but was invalided out in 1919.

Mr Lucy—Have you ever had any criminal proceedings brought against you in your life?—Never in my life.

Arrival at Bydfeet.

Accused told of his association with Mrs Jones at Barnstaple, and said he always paid the hotel bill. He said he went to Seaton to obtain a model of his machine for mixing bread and that was at the Triumph of Commerce. The machine was produced in court. It was suggested at Barnstaple that he should propose to Mrs Jones. He went to the Hotel Russell on the recommendation of Mrs Jones.

Sir Henry Curtis Bennett, replying to the Judge, remarked that it was said that accused came to this country partly for the purpose of trying to sell the patent for his machine.

Vaquier referred to his meetings with Mrs Jones in London on the night when she missed her train to Seaton.

He added that by arrangement with Mrs Jones he went to Bydfeet on February 14, as it was less expensive there.

Counsel—During the whole of your stay at Bydfeet did Mr Jones ever complain to you about your conduct regarding his wife?—Never (emphatically).

Mrs Jones's Solicitor.

Did you notice at the Blue Anchor any one of whom Mrs Jones was particularly fond?—Especially fond of? No.

Anyone in particular on Sundays?—Yes, one person specially on Sundays.

Who was this?—It was the solicitor of Mrs Jones.

Mr Lucy then asked Vaquier how many times he went to London while staying at Bydfeet.

Prisoner replied that he went five or six times in order to see firms who were negotiating for the buying of his patent. He only bought the chemicals from Mr Bland, the chemist, while staying at the Blue Anchor. He bought the chemicals for experiments he was making subsequently.

Vaquier said that he gave in a list of the chemicals he bought. The list was produced, containing 25 grains of strychnine, 100 grammes of pure iodine and 100 grammes of iodoform.

The Judge—Did Mr Bland say anything to you when you handed him the list for 25 grains of strychnine?—He asked me about the whole list, what they were for, but nothing specially about the strychnine.

The Judge—Did you tell him what it was used for, and I replied—"For experiments in wireless."

Vaquier further declared that the strychnine was done up in a small glass jar.

A Sensation.

A great sensation was produced in court by the prisoner's answer to the next question.

Mr Lucy—Mr Vaquier, why did you buy this strychnine?

Vaquier said that he gave in a list ordering quantities of it, or six different chemicals, including 25 grains of strychnine, 100 grammes of pure iodine and 100 grammes of iodoform.

The Judge—Explain what that means. I see you have got 25 grammes of strychnine, and I brought them.

The Judge—To whom?—The solicitor of Mrs Jones.

Mr Lucy—What for?

The Judge (to Mr Lucy)—You have chosen to a point where this person must be identified.

The Attorney-General—My lord, may we know the name?

The Judge—I must insist upon it.

Mr Lucy—Do you know the name of this solicitor?

Vaquier—No.

The Judge—What was he called when he was at the hotel as the guests?—I never heard his name mentioned.

Neither his first name or his second name?—I never heard his name mentioned. I did not pay any attention.

Mr Lucy—Was this person ask you to get it?—The second time that I saw him at the Blue Anchor.

Was it long before the 1st March?—About a fortnight. I cannot be precise.

What did he say?—Mrs Jones had just left the room, and I was coming down-stairs crying.

What did this person say?—He stopped me on the staircase, and invited me into the lounge.

What language did this person speak to you in?—Half-French and half-English.

(Continued on Page 8.)

STOP PRESS NEWS.

BRITISH REPLY TO FRANCE.

Paris, Friday evening.

In response to a wire from M. Herriot, Mr Ramsay MacDonald, expressing surprise that the Protocol had been added to the invitations addressed to the Powers for the conference on July 16, Sir Eyre Crowe, Permanent Under-Secretary for Foreign Affairs, in a Note stated that the British memorandum, which had excited so much discussion in French circles was only an expression of the British views, and did not pledge the French Government or any of the Governments invited to London, and that the conference would be absolutely free to make its own decisions regarding the questions put forward.

At the same time Sir Eyre Crowe announced that the same Protocol had been sent with an invitation to the Dominions, which therefore it would seem are to be represented.—Reuter.

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